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August 2019

Route 147 over Beach Creek, Cape May
(prior to rehabilitation)

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Cover photo: Route 147 over Beach Creek, Cape May
(after rehabilitation)

The Road Ahead: Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti

Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti

The summer has been a fun-filled, productive and rewarding adventure for me as the NJDOT staff and I took every opportunity to drive the Commitment to Communities mission forward in memorable and effective ways. We have positively influenced New Jersey residents of varying ages and life stages in notable, impactful ways.

We welcomed participants in the Summer Employment Program on May 30 as they joined the NJDOT ranks department-wide to gain real-world experience in their fields of study. It is always an enriching experience for the staff with whom they work as well, as they have the chance to listen to a youthful perspective on life and witness their technical abilities. I am sure they will be celebrated prior to their August 30 exodus back to their institutions of higher learning or next opportunity.

NJDOT hosted an unprecedented Commitment to Communities Forum & Expo on June 27 at the College of New Jersey. Over 350 businesses and local government representatives gathered to learn how to effectively collaborate with NJDOT and take advantage of the many opportunities we offer.

On July 8 -10, some of our staff traveled to Delaware to deliver presentations on a broad range of topics at the Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials (NASTO) Annual Conference. The sharing of information across transportation communities is important for all organizations to learn and expand horizons. I received many compliments on staff presentations and gratitude for sharing their expertise.

The month ended with the joyful laughter of children from the "Every Child Valued" organization who visited headquarters on July 26 for a day of learning and exploration. Bridges, transportation equipment, road signs and environmentalism were all taught with experiential programs, some of which included eating the fruits – or actually candy and ice cream – of their labor.

Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti welcomed Summer Employment Program participants to the NJDOT.

The 1st Summer Season of Service Food Drive ended on July 31. Nearly 500 pounds of food and other items were donated to those in need from the generous NJDOT staff. I am grateful to all who participated.

Lastly, as many of you know, I have a love of furry friends, and NJDOT staff included them in our Commitment to Communities mission with a well-received Pet Drive collecting necessary items for a local animal shelter.

Overall, NJDOT staff has made the summer memorable for so many people across the state and beyond and delivered upon the Commitment to Communities mission.

I wish you and your family a joyous end to summer and a rejuvenated energy to begin the next season of service ahead.

Diane

NJDOT hosted more than a dozen children from the Every Child Valued Organization for a day of learning and fun. The children took part in activities including building a bridge out of gum drops, flying a drone, experiencing a car wash and making an edible ice cream aquifer. They also had lunch with Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti and participated in a Q&A session.

Nearly 500 pounds of food and other items donated by NJDOT staff were delivered to the Arm in Arm community support facility in Trenton during the 1st Summer Season of Service drive.

The five-span, 485 foot-long, Route 162 over Cape May Canal structure, received a new fender system built from environmentally friendly, corrosion resistant material.

Boaters have a new view from the water with fender replacements on four bridges between Wildwood and Cape May

The project completion provides safe access to mariners, eco-friendly materials, and cost savings to taxpayers

NJDOT Transportation Operations Systems & Support staff and its contractor completed the Maintenance Bridge Fender Replacement Contract 2017-1 that enhanced boater safety, fostered environmental stewardship, and reduced taxpayer expense, with the replacement of four bridge fender systems in Wildwood and Cape May. The project was successfully completed and the waterways reopened before the 2019 Memorial Day holiday boating surge.

NJDOT Manager Jack Longworth, Supervising Engineer John Miller, and Project Engineer Gerald P. Oliveto, P.E., oversaw the fender replacement project and contractor PKF Mark III. The project began in September 2017 and continued throughout the winter months to reduce impact on summer boating traffic. All of the construction work was conducted from a barge, exacerbating the harshness of the winter weather and working environment.

"We encountered hazards such as a frozen Cape May Canal in early 2018," Oliveto said. "There was also a sunken sailboat beneath the Route 109 structure." Adding to the challenges was that the waterways remained open throughout the project. "We worked with the commercial fishing community as well as the sightseeing boats to ensure there was always a safe passage route for their vessels to transit."

Fender systems are designed to protect the structural piers from boat impacts. Structural inspections deemed that four bridge fender systems in Cape May County were at-risk due to their aging infrastructure. Additionally, the Route 162 Bridge fender incurred a major impact in 2016, and was unrepairable. Its need for replacement resulted in NJDOT beginning the Maintenance Bridge Fender Replacement program.

The bridges included in the replacement program were:

- Route 109 over Cape May Canal - built in 1960
- Route 147 over Grassy Sound – built in 1988
- Route 147 over Beach Creek – built in 1988
- Route 162 (Seashore Road) over Cape May Canal – built in 1971

Continued on page 4

Boaters have a new view Continued from page 3

This was the first time that NJDOT managed a project that consisted of the complete removal and reconstruction of fender systems on existing bridges. Typically, fender system replacements are only included on new construction projects.

The replacement project also provided the opportunity for NJDOT to upgrade the material used on the fender systems to an environmentally safe product. The existing bridge fender systems were constructed from creosote-treated timber piles – an industry standard at the time. Subsequently, it was determined that creosote is carcinogenic and the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) outlawed its use for marine piling. The innovation of marine-grade alternative material provided the opportunity for NJDOT to use a fiber reinforced polymer material and recycled composite lumber that is NJDEP approved, eco-safe, corrosion resistant, fire-resistant, and maintenance free, with a life expectancy of 50 years. (Read about composite material use on the Manahawkin Bay Bridge)

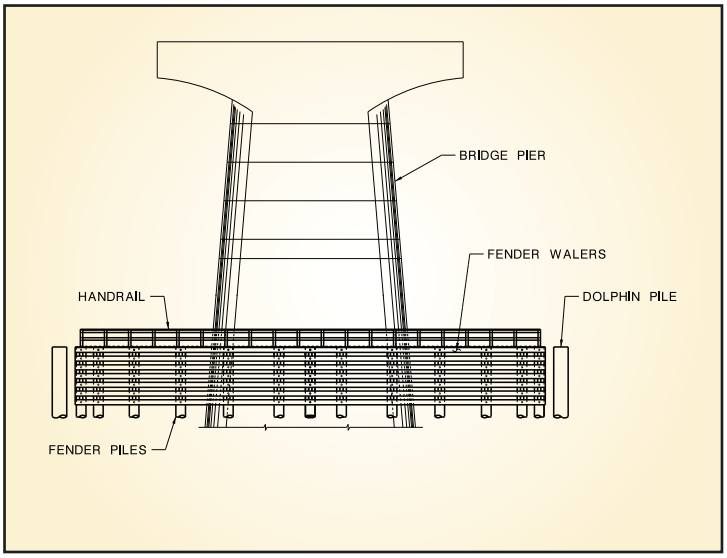
Each bridge site received new piles, wales, maintenance platforms, and railings (see graphic for bridge illustration). All railings and maintenance platforms comply with OSHA regulations. In addition, the new fender systems were designed to withstand harsh marine environmental conditions as well as boat impacts.

All new navigation lighting was installed at each structure as U.S. Coast Guard navigation aids. Navigation lighting guides boats safely beneath the structure by delineating the channel with lights. This is especially useful at night, in times of fog, clouds, or inclement weather.

Vertical clearance gauges were also installed at all the bridge sites. The gauges enhance boater and roadway safety by providing the structure height above the water level so boaters know the clearance of the bridge. The contract also included the sealing of concrete piers to prevent deterioration and extend the life of the structures. All substructure concrete cracks were filled and the piers sealed to prevent salt intrusion in a marine environment.

The Maintenance Bridge Fender Replacement Contract 2017-1 involved significant community outreach and coordination with the United States Coast Guard, United States Army Corps of Engineers, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Cape May County officials, and local marinas. The $11.2 million federally funded project enhanced boater safety, minimized environmental impact, and greatly reduced future maintenance costs, all while maintaining budget and construction timeline.

A sunken sailboat was discovered during the project and safely removed from the waterway.



Bridge illustration. Credit: WSP USA

In early 2018, a frozen Cape May Canal created project hazards.

NJDOT opened its doors to small business and local governments at its first Commitment to Communities Forum & Expo

Forum aimed at broadening awareness of contracting opportunities for diverse businesses and spurring economic development

The Commitment to Communities initiative is mission driven to create a department that is transparent to New Jersey residents, accessible to local governments, and fair and inclusive to our business partners, with the ultimate goal of providing an excellent transportation system for all who travel our roadways. Each action we take moves us closer to meeting that goal, and on June 27, 2019, NJDOT made a giant leap by holding its first Commitment to Communities Forum & Expo at the College of New Jersey in Ewing, New Jersey.

The Commitment to Communities Forum & Expo brought over 350 New Jersey business representatives from construction, engineering consulting, and IT together with local government officials, partner agencies and industry organizations to learn about contract opportunities available at NJDOT and the grants available to municipalities to fund them.

Collectively, staff reinforced the message that NJDOT is dedicated to communities and open for business. The Forum & Expo outlined how local municipalities can quickly and efficiently access DOT staff for guidance and assistance in their pursuit of project funding. Another featured message was NJDOT's practice of diversity and equitable participation, both internally through staffing and externally through our contractor partnerships. Overall, the event highlighted how NJDOT works to improve the quality of life for residents, and spur economic growth for the state.

Forum attendees received the benefit of learning about the NJDOT directly from division directors and managers providing overviews of their unit and offering salient insights that will aid in building strong partnerships.

NJDOT has already made great strides in our efforts and will continue to expand economic opportunities. Here are the statistics that show the trajectory of change:

- The 2020 NJDOT Capital Program draft budget allocates $625 million for Local System Support, its biggest line item, from the $3.7 billion budget.
- Local Aid & Economic Development awarded 648 grants in 2019 that will improve the quality of life in communities across the state and local governments.
- There are now $500 million in grant opportunities available and a new, online Resource Center to assist municipalities in accessing them.
- The Department exceeded its FY 2018 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise 12.44 percent participation goal, and increased the FY 2020 to 13.23 percent.
- The Supportive Services Program and upcoming Contractor Venture Forum were created to assist companies in accessing contract opportunities.
- The Technology Transfer website was created by the NJDOT Local Bicycle and Pedestrian Program to provide free community

Continued on page 6

NJDOT opened its doors Continued from page 5

assistance in improving safety conditions, and creating sustainable transit-oriented redevelopment.

- A record-breaking 60 contracts were awarded to maintain NJDOT facilities, roadways and highways, drawbridges and emergency response to the public, worth $360 million in 2019.
- The Capital Projects that NJDOT funded in FY 2019 included 126 design consultant awards and 60 construction awards, worth $200 million and $580 million respectively, with new contract opportunities consistently available.

The Commitment to Communities Forum & Expo clearly outlined the NJDOT mission, goals and achievements. In addition, it guided local communities in funding their transportation projects, and paved a pathway for Small Business Enterprises/Disadvantaged Business Enterprises/Emerging Business Enterprises to uncover contract opportunities.

Students put democracy into action as they petition for change at town council meeting

Students use research to entreat NJDOT for roadway safety changes

Fourth grade students from the Lawrence Intermediate School (LIS) requested the attendance of an NJDOT staff member at the Lawrence Township Council meeting, held on June 18, so that they could present research and request roadway changes in their community. The students prepared a presentation based on their pedestrian safety capstone research. The children captured the Commissioner's attention with a savvy video invitation, email request and signed petitions.

Andrew Tunnard attended the Council meeting and watched the student presentation outlining their concerns about pedestrian safety on Route 206. The students provided a petition with nearly 600 signatures requesting that the township and NJDOT address the issues. The request included the installation of an electronic pedestrian walking signal at the Eggerts Crossing Road and Route 206 intersection. They believe that the safety of the students who walk to and from LIS, Rider University, Lawrence Middle School and Lawrence High School, would be greatly increased with the installation of this common electronic light. NJDOT is looking into the efficacy of the request.

Education takes a hands-on approach when Lawrence Intermediate School students petition their town and the NJDOT for road safety changes.

The students were inspired to contact the Commissioner and NJDOT after meeting her at a bicycle and pedestrian safety event held at LIS in October. The Commissioner addressed the students and other attendees and encouraged them to be pedestrian and bicycle smart and safe.

3rd Annual Animal Shelter Drive

Pet Drive volunteers deliver a record-breaking 787 items to the animal shelter.

NJDOT staff continue to foster the spirit of the department by giving back to the community in so many ways. Special thanks to everyone who participated in the 3rd Annual Animal Shelter drive. NJDOT employees broke another record by contributing 787 items that were delivered to the savehomelessanimals.org in Skillman, NJ. Special thanks to the drive coordinators:

Stephanie Chandler
Norma Maziarz
Charlene Cruz
Cindy Trim
Sue Dempsey
Karen Kunzer
Lisa Laggy
And other volunteers

TRANSPORTER

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Employees and Retirees

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Commissioner
Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti

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Communications Office

For news and story ideas, contact:
Editor
judith.drucker@dot.nj.gov

Route 168 Bridge over Big Timber Creek, Bridge Replacement, DP 16132

The Route 168 Bridge over Big Timber Creek project, that began construction in June 2017, is now complete. The $4.4 million federally funded bridge project, that connects Gloucester Township in Camden County and Washington Township in Gloucester County, fully replaced a structurally deficient bridge with a three-sided precast concrete arch bridge. The new bridge has one northbound travel lane, two southbound travel lanes, a shoulder in each direction, a parapet and sidewalk on each side of the bridge, and a striped median. The project was completed on schedule with Michael J. Williams, Principal Engineer, Region South Construction, leading the project.

The poles are pounded into the ground, are trimmed and filled with concrete. The piles support the footing that supports the precast arches.

After the bridge arch joints are sealed, the area is backfilled with gravel and specific soils. The final driving surface is created with approximately 10 inches of three different asphalt mixes.

20th Asian American Heritage Month Celebration

NJDOT celebrated 20th Asian American Heritage Month on May 21, 2019. This year's celebration theme was "Asian Contribution in Holistic Health". The program included dance, music, yoga, tai chi, and words of wisdom from the keynote speaker. A mouthwatering buffet of Asian cuisine culminated the event. The entire program highlighted the talents, multi-cultural heritage and ethnic diversity of the Asian Americans working at NJDOT.

Vaidya Bhavya Doshi, keynote speaker, enlightened the audience with her encouraging and informative speech on the Ayurveda practices and alternative medicines. Her life mantra is that the "Kitchen is the laboratory for health."

People representing various Asian countries participated in a play, an "Asian Holistic Tour," demonstrating healthy Asian lifestyles. One scene featured Pavan Seth demonstrating the moves of Pranayama and Hung Tang showed the moves of Tai-Chi.

A group of participants from Yuan-Yuan Group - Chinese American Group, presented "A Tea Harvest Dance" and added glory to the event. We also had a vocalist of immense talent, Ms. Ajita Chaoji who entertained us by singing Bollywood songs. In addition to vocal talent, Priyanka Das also regaled us with her melodious voice by singing a Bangladeshi song. Furthermore there were posters displayed in NJDOT hallways and a small photo booth created and placed outside of the mutli-purpose room incorporating with this year's theme.

Twenty years ago, Bruce Darji and Dulce Hill pioneered the Asian American Heritage Committee. The membership held their first Asian American Heritage Day celebration in May 1999. Over the years, NJDOT Asian American Committee has grown rapidly – keeping in step with the increasingly diverse workforce. We hope to continue the tradition of celebration every year and entertain with more exciting themes over the years.

Article contributed by Pruthvi Patel

Pranayama' demonstration

TID DOTS!

Tid Dots is a collection of employee awards, retirements, service anniversaries and other sharable and NJDOT pride-producing news.

Local Aid Grant Program

Michael Russo, NJDOT Assistant Commissioner, of Planning, Multimodal & Grants Administration (PMGA) and Local Aid Project Manager, Taimur Shamali, joined Freeholder Deputy Director Balvir Singh (trying to identify the others) on Sunday, June 30 at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Route 130 Bypass portion of the Delaware River Heritage Trail. This 5-mile part of the Delaware River Heritage Trail is another piece to a network of a 60-mile shared-use loop that will link 24 communities on both sides of the Delaware River.

Through the Local Aid Transportation Alternatives grant program, the NJ Department of Transportation continues to support the expansion of regional and local trails throughout the state. The recent completion of the Delaware River Heritage Trail is another example of DOT's commitment to supporting our local governments in providing well-needed off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities that expand our regional trail network, connect NJ municipalities, counties and our Tri-state region.

These projects are the result of partnership, planning and a systemic approach to leverage the value of the local transportation dollars. DVRPC and NJDOT Local Aid collaborated to support this project ultimately supplying the $9 million needed to construct and inspect this project. Support from the Tri-State Campaign, the Cooper's Ferry Partnership, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia helped to make this project a reality.

More information about the trail can be fund here https://delawareriverheritagetrail.org/

NJDOT staff share their expertise at NASTO

NJDOT staff Hardev Dave, Eric Neu, Snehal Patel share their expertise at various sessions held at the NASTO conference.

Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti and members of the NJDOT leadership attended the 2019 Northeast Association of State Transportation Officials (NASTO) Annual Conference that was held in Wilmington, Delaware on July 8 -10.

Numerous NJDOT experts were asked to share their expertise, knowledge and insights on a wide array of topics including: Eric Neu and Hardev Dave on the Route 495 project; Andrew Swords, Towards Zero Deaths, discussing NJDOT's Local Safety Program; Glenn Stott, moderating the Everything Autonomous-Drones session; and Chris Tomlin providing expertise in a workforce development session entitled Recognition and Retention.

NJDOT staff expertly presented on a wide variety of topics lending to the level of recognition and respect the department holds in the transportation industry. Congratulations on another job well done.

Chris Tomlin was the keynote speaker at the Workforce Development Session focusing on Recognition and Retention at the NASTO conference.

It's All About Family

Seventeen year old Nicholas Cushman is a member of the USA National Under 16/18 Dragon Boating team. He will be representing Team USA at the International Dragon Boat Championships to be held in Pattaya – Rayong Thailand from 20 to 25 August 2019.

Recently, Nicholas competed with Team USA at The Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival in California July 27-28, where both the Boys and the Girls U18 teams won Gold. Nick also earned a Team USA paddle for having one of the 6 fastest racing times for boys under 18 on the Outrigger Canoe. This achievement earned him a spot on the top racing boat for Team USA during World Championships

Nicholas will be a senior at Notre Dame High School. Nicholas trains with Philadelphia Dragon Boat Association in Philadelphia, PA and also with Relentless Dragon Boat Association in New Hope, PA.

NJDOT, and especially the staff of PMGA, joins his parents Kimberly and Michael Cushman and his brother Christopher in wishing him much success in Thailand. We are all rooting for you Nicholas.

Proud Parents, Michael and Kimberly Cushman pictured (right) and Nicholas with his older brother Christopher, (bottom right).

Michael Cushman works in the Office of Environmental Resources in the area of Planning, Multimodal & Grants Administration (PMGA).

Nicholas Cushman

Share your family's joy and accomplishments with your NJDOT family in our newly added It's All About Family section. Submit your requests to: Judith.Drucker@dot.nj.gov

NJDOT Service Awards

45 YEARS OF SERVICE

SEPTEMBER
John Harder

OCTOBER
Debra Roberts

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

AUGUST
Arthur Christian

SEPTEMBER
Michelle Jones

OCTOBER
Claudette Bailey
Ira Levinton
John Patricco

35 YEARS OF SERVICE

AUGUST
John Garzio
Ayodele Oshilaja
George Pinaha
Paul Pospiech

SEPTEMBER
Albert Blaine
Charles Craddock
Barbara Delucia
Guy Didonato
Patrick Donlon
Roy Hartle
Warren Howard
John Jamerson
Thomas Loftus
Kenneth Mihalic
Michael Mordenti
Mario Ritualo
Judith Shanoskie

OCTOBER
Valerie Brown
Larry Cotton
Bradley Dailey
Louis Forino
Robert Harris
Sharon Hartmann
Dennis Higgins
James Howarth
Brett Koester
Philip Lanno
Hermean Matthews
Daniel Mikus
Edwin Padilla
James Romer
Joseph Schocko
Robin Sterns
Frank Tallone

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

AUGUST
Joseph Abbott
Tesha Goodson

OCTOBER
Donal Borer
Scott Hergert
Dean Jack
Frederick Lassiter
Joseph Popelka
Richard Rufe
Brian Smith
Randolph Stout

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

AUGUST
James Berzok

OCTOBER
George Bateman
Craig Sowell

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

AUGUST
Paul Shelly
Joseph Sonntag

SEPTEMBER
Abdul Ali
Sandra Blick
Niculina Chivulescu
Asma Hussain
Charles Isiadinso
Travis Johnson
Sansevalin Kumaresan
Atta Najem
Nirmin Nasef
Henry Nguyen
Hemantlal Padalia
Dharmesh Patel
Virginia Powell
Pahkajkuma Shah
Khalid Shaikh
Jackie Sweat
Michael Syanovitz
Pinakin Tank
Rochelle Thomas
Dawn Williams
Wahida Yousoufzai
Krzysztof Zajac

OCTOBER
Lashawn Brice
Kelvin Dickens
Russell Kershaw
Joseph Matozzi
James Vari

Retiring Employee Interview

NAME: John Maida

POSITION AT RETIREMENT: Project Manager

NUMBER OF YEARS AT NJDOT: 33 years, start date of service December 7, 1986

PRIOR POSITIONS HELD AT THE NJDOT:
Drafting Technician, Senior Draftsman, Assistant Engineer, Senior Engineer, Principal Engineer, Project Engineer,
Project Manager

DID YOU HAVE A MENTOR OR INFLUENCER AT NJDOT? IF SO, HOW DID HE OR SHE IMPACT YOUR CAREER AND/OR PERSONAL LIFE? Too numerous to mention. Rick Hammer and Joe Bertoni who showed me how to be a compassionate, yet strong leader, Vince Maida (my father, retired from NJDOT in 1995) who showed me to be fair and honest. Caroline Carmody who inspired me to try greater things. Kiran Patel (retired) who urged me into the engineering series; I would not be where I am without him.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD? I started here because both my parents worked here, as well as many aunts and uncles. My father was in charge of the Accounting Bureau; my mother was the secretary to the Commissioner. I found, almost from day one that I liked civil engineering.

DID YOU PURSUE ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND ADVANCED DEGREES TO ENHANCE YOUR CAREER? I took the Certified Public Manager series in 2004; this helped me be a better leader.

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT THAT YOU WORKED ON FOR WHICH YOU WERE MOST PROUD AND WHY? My first design project, the Ramp from Route 1 South to Olden Ave. This project was built at the request of the local ambulance crews. They had to travel down to Perry St and come back to get to the hospital, adding 20 minutes to their trip. After the project was built, my supervisor sent me to observe the traffic flow the day after it opened. I took traffic counts and several pictures; I was about to leave when an ambulance came racing through, lights and siren blasting. It was then that I realized that I made a difference in someone's life. This inspired me to design the best projects possible.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE?
Our jobs, no matter how insignificant we perceive them, makes a difference to the motoring public. We are bettering the lives of thousands of commuters. People get to school safely every day, and they arrive home to their families each night because we strive for the best possible roadways.

WHAT PROJECT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING AND WHY? No specific project stands out. Each had their own unique problems and challenges.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE?
The main thing that I learned was when a problem occurs, deal with it immediately, it will only grow larger with time. In addition, it is important to remain calm at all times. I have had the public screaming at me, faced several dangerous situations, and saved a construction employee from falling from a bridge. Each time I was able to function because I remained calm and logical. And I performed my duties with dignity and professionalism.

WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH A PERSON IN AN ENTRY LEVEL OR MID-LEVEL POSTION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO THEM IN NAVIGATING PROJECTS AND THEIR CAREER?
Never say "no" or "it can't be done". Be positive, say "I can, but I need ___".
Never stop learning, technology is ever-changing, and we need to change with it.
Always plan for your future, invest in deferred-compensation and 401k. It will be hard when you are starting out, but you will be happy that you did later on.

PLEASE USE THIS SPACE TO OFFER ANY PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS YOU WISH TO EXPRESS. I was once asked by an employee from South Dakota DOT what makes NJDOT special. This was easy, the people. We are family. Our diversity makes us stronger. We celebrate each other's special holidays. We do not look at each other as subordinates or superiors; we are all coworkers. Whenever something bad happens, NJDOT is there helping. If we cannot, we are sending aid.

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN AS TO HOW YOU WILL SPEND YOUR RETIREMENT? HAVE YOU SET ANY GOALS?
I plan to travel the country with a small camper. I have never been out west. Mt Rushmore and Yellowstone. My long-term goal is to travel Europe and my ultimate goal is to see the Pyramids in Egypt.

Retiring Employee Interview

NAME – Kelly Anne Maida

TITLE AT RETIREMENT – Secretarial Assistant 1

NUMBER OF YEARS AT NJDOT – 34 ½ , start date of service, December 23, 2019

LIST POSITIONS HELD AT THE NJDOT: Senior Clerk Stenographer, Principle Clerk Stenographer, Sec. Assistant 3, Sec. Assistant 2, Sec. Assistant 1

DID YOU HAVE A MENTOR OR INFLUENCER AT NJDOT? IF SO, HOW DID HE OR SHE IMPACT YOUR CAREER AND/OR PERSONAL LIFE? My very Best Friends Rita Bellmont and Debbie Baughman were my major influences at NJDOT. I learned a lot from the two of them. I believe I had the best teachers in the world!

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD? I wanted to follow in my Mother's footsteps.

WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH A PERSON IN AN ENTRY LEVEL OR MID-LEVEL POSTION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO THEM IN NAVIGATING PROJECTS AND THEIR CAREER? My best advice would be to keep learning and keep moving. Knowledge is power. If you get bored in your job, strive to learn another one.

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN AS TO HOW YOU WILL SPEND YOUR RETIREMENT? HAVE YOU SET ANY GOALS? John and I will be travelling throughout the US to see the sites! And hopefully we will get a change to go to Italy for a few weeks down the road.

Kelly Anne Maida as an elf during the NJDOT Holiday Party

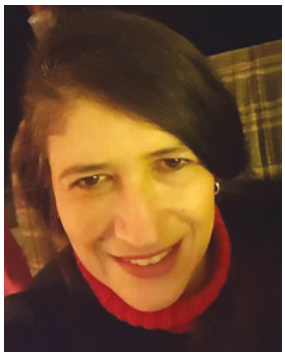
Retirees

August
Keith Bergman, 19 years; Michael Davis, 34 years; Donna Deveney, 33 years; Robert Eletto, 34 years; David Hoover, 18 years; Michael Lewis, 37 years; Joseph Popelka, 30 years; Richard Shaw, 31 years.

September
Charlene Brennfleck, 14 years; Lisa Kay, 32 years; Philip Manzi, 24 years; James Sorenson, 33 years.

October
Sharon Hartley, 32 years; Lisa Voorhees, 31 years.

Retiring Employee Interview



NAME: Donna Deveney

POSITION AT RETIREMENT: Mgr 1, Information Processing

NUMBER OF YEARS AT NJDOT: 34 years, state date of service, July, 1985

DID YOU HAVE A MENTOR OR INFLUENCER AT NJDOT? IF SO, HOW DID HE OR SHE IMPACT YOUR CAREER AND/OR PERSONAL LIFE? My old Manager/Director Susan Hattman. She was a great "unofficial" mentor and guided me into my current position. Jim Snyder, Deputy Commissioner was also a great mentor. No matter what he was doing in the front office he always made time to provide me insight and share is knowledge with me.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO PURSUE A CAREER IN YOUR FIELD? I actually did not want to work in computers but while I was on maternity leave I was begged to come to the computer unit. It was the best decision I made. I love the customer service aspect and have always tried to put the customer and the Department first, while maintaining State and Department policies.

DID YOU PURSUE ADDITIONAL EDUCATION AND ADVANCED DEGREES TO ENHANCE YOUR CAREER? I have gone to so many computer training courses, the Certified Public Manager course and a host of other trainings that assisted my ability to perform my duties.

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT THAT YOU WORKED ON FOR WHICH YOU WERE MOST PROUD AND WHY? There were so many Y2K (btw we are still working, various network e-mail, storage, operating system projects. Too much to list. The team I have worked with has always stepped up to any challenge we were given and I am proud of all of this Bureau's accomplishments. I have worked in the computer support unit before there was a Division of Information Technology and the changes from DOS days to know are remarkable.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE? A great team working together can do anything.

WHAT PROJECT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING AND WHY? All of the network changes because each time involved the movement of 3000+ users data/email.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE? Just do the best you can and take a deep breath

WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH A PERSON IN AN ENTRY LEVEL OR MID-LEVEL POSTION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL TO THEM IN NAVIGATING PROJECTS AND THEIR CAREER? To focus on their own responsibilities and not to compare with others.

PLEASE USE THIS SPACE TO OFFER ANY PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS YOU WISH TO EXPRESS.
I have gotten to know so many employees personally and I am grateful to have had this opportunity.

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN AS TO HOW YOU WILL SPEND YOUR RETIREMENT? HAVE YOU SET ANY GOALS? Waiting for my granddaughter to arrive any day. Then get on a plane to Texas to spend as much time with her that I can.